

of the former species in general form and arrangement, excepting that they are smaller and less elevated. Those beneath the anterior part of the lower jaw are much smaller; but the rest on the under parts are similar to the former.

The head is of a dull light-brown colour, with a few obscure darker spots. The general ground colour of the back is "bluish gray, tinged with rust colour;" there are five transverse bands across the back, which are composed principally of numerous, close, small, dark-brown spots, on a bluish-gray ground, darker than the intervals, and without any red tinge; and each band is marked on the posterior margin with strongly defined semilunar indentations, bordered with yellowish-white, or bright yellow. These bands are continued on the tail, where they become half-rings.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.	Lines.
Length of the head	1	2
of the body	2	9
of the tail	3	5
Total length ...	7	6
Length of anterior extremity	1	4
of posterior extremity	2	1

GENUS—AMBLRYNCHUS. *Bell.*AMBLRYNCHUS DEMARLII. *Bibr.*

PLATE XII.

Crista supra cervicem elevatiore, supra dorsum humiliore; tuberculis verticalibus subdepressis, occipitalibus conicis; caudâ tereti.

Amblyrynchus Demarlii. Bibr. Hist. Rept. IV. p. 197.

This species was first described by Mons. Bibron in the "Histoire des Reptiles," and so fully as not to require any detailed account of its characters here. It has not, however, hitherto been figured, and it is thought very desirable to embrace so good an opportunity of giving a representation of so interesting an animal. Its most important structural peculiarities will be alluded to in the account of the next species, which is an aquatic form, whilst the present is strictly terrestrial. The toes are long, compared with those of the other, and so unequal as to constitute essentially an ambulatory form.

By Mr. Darwin's observations we are now enabled fully to confirm Mons. Bibron's suggestion, that this species was from the Galapagos, and to establish the genus as strictly appertaining to that curious and interesting locality.

AMBLRYNCHUS CRISTATUS. *Bell.*

Cristâ supra humeros humiliore; digitis ferè equalibus subpalmatis; caudâ compressâ.

Amblyrynchus Cristatus. Bell, Zool. Journ. 1825, p. 195. Tab. Supp. XII. Bibr. Hist. Rept. IV. p. 204.

I established the genus *Amblyrynchus* nearly eighteen years ago, from a stuffed specimen of the present species, which had been obtained by Mr. Bullock, Jun., in Mexico. I had never seen another specimen, until Mr. Darwin brought home a young one from the Galapagos, in excellent preservation in spirits, and thus established its true habitat, and enabled me to correct those errors in my description which arose from drying and bad stuffing. Mons. Bibron also took his description from my specimen, and thus necessarily fell into the same mistakes, of which the most important are those which relate to the form of the tail, and the structure of the feet. Thus the tail is described as "round, excepting towards the extremity, where it is flattened at the sides," whereas it is in fact much compressed throughout its whole length; and with regard to the toes no mention is made of their being partially united by a web or fold of skin, which is the case both on the anterior and posterior feet. These two characters so obviously point out a power of swimming, that the aquatic habits of the species might at once have been predicated, and it is exceedingly interesting to find, from Mr. Darwin's observations, that such is really the case. We have, therefore, two distinct forms—distinct equally in their structure and in their habits—in the two species now described; the one, *A. Demarlii*, being truly terrestrial, with lengthened, unequal, and distinctly separated toes and a round tail, and the present species as truly amphibious, having short, nearly equal and webbed toes, and a compressed tail.

A very interesting account of their habits, &c., is given by Mr. Darwin in his delightful Journal of the Voyage of the Beagle, p. 466 to 472, to which the reader is referred, and which exactly accords with the peculiarities of their respective structure just alluded to.

It is remarkable also, that whereas *Amblyrynchus cristatus* inhabits the coasts of all the islands, the other species is found only in the central portion of the group.